Islam 101
Transcript of Part 5
Common Beliefs of Muslims and Christians
The Future of Interfaith Dialogue

presented on March 5, 2015

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So you can see there are many points of commonality in beliefs between Muslims and Christians. We all believe in God as the creator of all life. We all believe in God as a source of justice, certainly as the one who is going to judge us on Judgment Day and hold us accountable and decide where we are going to spend the afterlife.

Perhaps one of the most important beliefs that we share has to do with the creation of the first two human beings, Adam and Eve. Both faith traditions believe that God created them, placed them in the garden as caretakers, and that there was an incident with a serpent who tempted them into doing something that they should not do. And here's where the stories diverge a little bit.

In Christian tradition, God asks Adam what happened. Adam blames Eve. Eve blames the serpent. God punishes everybody. And there's this sense of collective accountability. This Original Sin that is passed down from one generation to the next, to the next, that we're all accountable for.

Muslims do not believe in the doctrine of Original Sin. Muslims believe in individual accountability. Adam and Eve were responsible for their own actions and had to take accountability for that; and each one of us is responsible for our own actions and decisions,

alone. She's having this baby. It's very painful and God responds to her, "Don't worry, I'll take care of you. Look, shake the tree, there are ripe dates there, [to] provide you with food. Look, there's a stream here to provide you with water."

The only thing that God asked of h"e"e" ad baid d f 2.6(b)0.5(y)5.Tw 11.04 -nd Tm   [([)-8.9(t.lm)1.4(t)1

can cooperate? Or are we looking for one in which we simply argue about whose religion is better than whose, and the kinds of conflict that that can lead to?

I'd like to suggest that there are two major avenues that dialogue is taking today. One of them is what I would call a dialogue of information and perspectives. Certainly, with respect to Islam, there is a lot of misinformation out there in the media. I was shocked on one of my first trips to Saudi Arabia to discover that there's just as much misinformation out there about Christianity.

One of my first meetings with three very, very conservative religious scholars—I was fully veiled, my husband was with me, so I'a7i( )t(a)2.6(b)d [(o)8.6(n-15.4(,)-2.(n-15.4v)o20-0t8)11.5(4)93t6rt